



Committee on Community Colleges and Workforce

**Meeting
Tuesday, March 28, 2006
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
Room 24, House Office Building**

MEETING PACKET

Allan Bense
Speaker

Pat Patterson
Committee Chair



FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Allan G. Bense, Speaker

Community Colleges & Workforce Committee

Pat Patterson
Chair

Ed Jennings
Vice Chair

Meeting Agenda **Tuesday, March 28, 2006** **24 HOB, 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM**

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. Opening Remarks by Chair Patterson**
- III. Consideration of the following bills:**
 - HB 531 CS by Representative Jennings**
Prosperity Campaigns
 - HB 1419 by Representative Attkisson**
Scuba Diving Instructional Facilities
- IV. Closing Comments**
- V. Meeting Adjourned**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 531 CS

Prosperity Campaigns

SPONSOR(S): Jennings

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 1224

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Economic Development, Trade & Banking Committee</u>	15 Y, 0 N, w/CS	Olmedillo	Carlson
2) <u>Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Committee</u>	18 Y, 0 N, w/CS	McAuliffe	Gordon
3) <u>Community Colleges & Workforce Committee</u>		Thomas <i>NOT</i>	Ashworth <i>CFA</i>
4) <u>Commerce Council</u>			
5) _____			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 531 CS creates a Prosperity Campaign Council (Council) to be housed in Workforce Florida, Inc., to develop, enhance and assist in the coordination of Prosperity Campaigns throughout the state with the goal of providing economic benefit services and related information to Florida citizens.

The Florida Prosperity Campaign Council, is composed of 20 members and assigned the following responsibilities:

- Assist in the development and enhancement of Prosperity Campaigns and related programs throughout the state;
- Work with all levels of government, non-profit entities and the private sector to provide economic benefit services and related information to Florida citizens;
- Work with the Department of Education in developing financial literacy instruction to be part of the life management skills course;
- Take other action as necessary to perform its function; and
- Provide a report to the Governor regarding the effectiveness of the Council.

The bill specifies the composition and size of the Council, the term of the appointments, the frequency of meetings, and its organizational structure.

Additionally, HB 531 CS requires financial literacy instruction to be included in the required high school life management skills course.

The provisions of this bill relating to the Prosperity Campaign Council will be repealed on July 1, 2010, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

The bill provides an appropriation of \$162,000 from the General Revenue Fund to fund the Prosperity Campaign Council.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Provide limited Government - The bill creates the Prosperity Campaign Council, composed of 20 members and housed within Workforce Florida, Inc., to establish and coordinate Prosperity Campaigns throughout Florida.

Empower families – The bill encourages the Prosperity Campaign to connect low-wage workers to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Childcare Tax Credit; offer free tax preparation services, economic benefits screening and other related services. As a result, more low-wage workers will be informed and will likely apply for this credit, which will increase their income even when the amount of the EITC exceeds the amount of taxes workers owe.

Promote Personal Responsibility – The bill encourages Prosperity Campaigns to educate citizens about available economic benefit programs and the importance of wise financial decision-making. Consequently, the bill may reduce government dependency.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)

Present Situation

Created in 1975, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), sometimes called Earned Income Credit (EIC), is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families. According to the Tax Policy Center (Tax Notes, March 14, 2005) the EITC, administered through the federal income tax system, is the largest cash assistance program for low-income families. The EITC program is designed to encourage work by subsidizing people's wages. The EITC provides up to \$4,400 a year for working families with two or more children. In 2002, the EITC lifted approximately 4.9 million people out of poverty.¹

In a January 17, 2006 news article, Workforce Florida, Inc. stated that "[b]ased on the information from the IRS it is projected that as much as \$635 million goes unclaimed by the estimated 350,000+ families/individuals in Florida who are not taking advantage of the EITC."

According to the Agency for Workforce Innovation: the state's workforce system, led by Workforce Florida, Inc., the Agency for Workforce Innovation and the 24 Regional Workforce Boards has emphasized and conducted annual Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) informational campaigns for several years. These informational campaigns target first-time workers, the "working poor" and those exiting from public assistance through employment. Additionally, the Department of Children and Families also provides similar notices to public assistance participants and other low-wage workers.

Local workforce efforts are often conducted in collaboration with local Prosperity Campaigns, financial literacy programs and other similar efforts to demonstrate that "work pays". Currently, Prosperity Campaigns exist in 12 counties throughout Florida.

Effect of Proposed Changes

Prosperity Campaign Council

The HB 531 CS creates the "Prosperity Campaign Council" (Council), to be housed in Workforce Florida, Inc. The Council is directed to develop, enhance and assist in the coordination of Prosperity Campaigns throughout the state with the goal of providing economic benefit services and related information to Florida citizens.

¹ Tax Policy Center, *Disparities in Knowledge of the EITC*, March 14, 2005.

The composition of the Council is as follows:

- One member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, who shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member;
- One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, who shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member;
- The Chief Financial Officer or his or her designee, who shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member;
- The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee, who shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member;
- Four individuals each representing a different Prosperity Campaign in the state and appointed by the Governor;
- One representative from each of the following organizations or entities, who shall be appointed by the Governor:
 - Greater Miami Prosperity Campaign;
 - Florida Bankers Association;
 - The Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants (CPAs);
 - The Florida League of Cities;
 - The Florida Credit Union League;
 - The Florida Association of Counties;
 - The Florida Association of Realtors;
 - United Way of Florida;
 - Leadership Florida;
 - The Florida Chamber of Commerce;
 - A non-profit or community based low wage worker organization; and
 - The Florida Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy.

The bill also sets the length of a term of appointment for each member at 2 years beginning on July 1, 2006 and requires that vacancies be made for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointments.

Council members will serve without compensation. However, they are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, F.S.

The Council's responsibilities are as follows:

- Assisting in the development and enhancement of Prosperity Campaigns and related programs throughout the state, using the best practices developed by Prosperity Campaigns in Florida and nationally;
- Work with all levels of government, non-profit entities and the private sector to provide economic benefit programs and financial literacy information to Florida citizens;
- Work with the Department of Education in developing financial literacy instruction to be part of the life management skills course pursuant to s. 1003.43; and
- Take other action as necessary to meet its statutory mission.

Beginning June 30, 2007, and annually thereafter, the Council must provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature on the Council's effectiveness, obstacles and future recommendations for legislative action.

The provisions of the bill relating to the Prosperity Campaign Council will stand repealed on July 1, 2010, unless it is reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment.

FINANCIAL LITERACY IN HIGH SCHOOLS

Present Situation

Currently, 24 credits are required for high school graduation, pursuant to s. 1003.43, F.S. These include:

- one-half credit in life management skills which includes consumer education; and

- one-half credit in economics that includes a comparative study of the history, doctrines and objectives of all major economic systems. The Florida Council on Economic Education provides technical assistance to the department and district school boards in developing curriculum and materials for the study of economics.

Effect of Proposed Changes

The HB 531 CS requires the Prosperity Campaign Council to work with the Department of Education in developing a financial literacy instruction to be part of the life management skills course required for high school graduation. The financial literacy instruction must focus on the importance of financial management, savings investments, credit scores, savings and additional materials.

The HB 531 CS requires financial literacy instruction to be included in the high school life management skills course required for high school graduation.

The bill provides an appropriation of \$162,000 from the General Revenue Fund in fiscal year 2006-2007 to Workforce Florida Inc., to fund the Prosperity Campaign Council.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Creates s. 445.057, F.S., to establish the Prosperity Campaign Council; establishes the composition and size of the Council, the term of the appointments, the frequency of meetings, its organizational structure, its mission and responsibilities.

Section 2. Amends s. 1003.43, F.S., relating to general requirements for high school graduation; requiring financial literacy instruction to be part of the life management skills one-half credit requirement.

Section 3. Provides an appropriation of \$162,000 from the General Revenue Fund to fund the Prosperity Campaign Council.

Section 4: Provides that the bill will take effect July 1, 2006.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

See fiscal comments.

2. Expenditures:

The bill provides an appropriation of \$162,000 from the General Revenue Fund in fiscal year 2006-2007 to Workforce Florida Inc., to fund the Prosperity Campaign Council. See fiscal comments.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

See fiscal comments.

2. Expenditures:

See fiscal comments.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

If this law brings greater awareness to the availability of the EITC for working families and individuals, the qualifying families and individuals who receive federal monies would presumably spend that money locally.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

Costs

The 20 member council, which is to be administratively housed within Workforce Florida, defines a number of coordination and information dissemination roles for the council, such as hosting the required council meeting, preparations, publication, and dissemination of printed materials to businesses and employees, and providing free tax preparation, economic benefit screenings and providing other related services to individuals. According to the Agency for Workforce Innovation, in order to provide these types of services a minimum of one full time staff position and a half-time support position will be needed to implement and support the council.

The cost of these activities is difficult to determine; however, the following is a projected estimate of state level costs:

1.5 full time employees with salary and benefits at \$87,000; quarterly meetings at \$50,000, printing/copying/publication/consultants/postage/supplies/miscellaneous at \$15,000; traveling/meetings outside of the quarterly meetings at \$10,000. The total state level cost is estimated at \$162,000.

The local level costs are estimated at \$120,000 for staff and materials for twenty-four Regional Workforce Boards.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

HB 531 CS does not require a municipality or county to expend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds. HB 531 CS does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate. HB 531 CS does not reduce the percentage of state tax shared with municipalities or counties.

2. Other: None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY: None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS: None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

On January 26, 2006, the Economic Development, Trade and Banking Committee adopted a strike-all amendment to the bill. The amendment reorganizes and clarifies the purpose and methods by which the Prosperity Campaign Council will operate, and removes redundant and unnecessary language.

On March 22, 2006, the Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee adopted one amendment to the bill providing an appropriation of \$162,000 from the General Revenue Fund to fund the Prosperity Campaign Council.

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CHAMBER ACTION

The Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations
Committee recommends the following:

Council/Committee Substitute

Remove the entire bill and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to Prosperity Campaigns; creating s.
445.057, F.S.; establishing the Florida Prosperity
Campaign Council within Workforce Florida, Inc.; providing
membership; providing for meetings and reimbursement for
per diem and travel expenses; providing duties of the
council; requiring development of financial literacy
instruction to be included in high school life management
skills coursework; providing reporting requirements;
providing for repeal; amending s. 1003.43, F.S., relating
to general requirements for high school graduation;
requiring financial literacy instruction to be part of the
life management skills credit requirement; providing an
appropriation; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Section 445.057, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

445.057 Florida Prosperity Campaign Council.--

(1) There is established the Florida Prosperity Campaign Council to be administratively housed in Workforce Florida, Inc. The council shall develop, enhance, and assist in the coordination of Prosperity Campaigns throughout the state with the goal of providing economic benefits services and related information to Florida citizens.

(2) The council shall consist of the following members, each appointed by the Governor except as otherwise provided:

(a) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, who shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member.

(b) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member.

(c) The Chief Financial Officer or his or her designee, who shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member.

(d) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee, who shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member.

(e) Four persons representing different Prosperity Campaigns in the state.

(f) One member of the Greater Miami Prosperity Campaign.

(g) One representative from the Florida Bankers Association.

(h) One representative from the Florida Institute of CPAs.

(i) One representative from the Florida Credit Union League.

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(j) One representative from the Florida League of Cities.

(k) One representative from the Florida Association of
Counties.

(l) One representative from the Florida Association of
Realtors.

(m) One representative from United Way of Florida.

(n) One representative from Leadership Florida.

(o) One representative from the Florida Chamber of
Commerce.

(p) One representative from a nonprofit or community-based
low-wage worker organization.

(q) One representative from the Florida Jump\$tart
Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy.

(3) Council members shall be appointed to serve 2-year
terms beginning July 1, 2006. A vacancy on the council shall be
filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner
as the original appointment.

(4) The council shall meet quarterly or upon the call of
the chair. Annually, at the meeting in the first quarter,
officers consisting of a chair, vice chair, and secretary shall
be elected to serve until a successor is elected. No officer
shall serve more than 2 consecutive years in the same office.

(5) Members of the council shall serve without
compensation, but shall be reimbursed for per diem and travel
expenses in accordance with s. 112.061.

(6) The council shall have the following responsibilities:

(a) Assist in the development and enhancement of
Prosperity Campaigns and related programs throughout the state,

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using best practices developed by Prosperity Campaigns in
Florida and nationally.

(b) Work with federal, state, and local governments,
nonprofit entities, and the private sector to provide
information to Florida citizens about economic benefits programs
and financial literacy.

(c) Work with the Department of Education in developing
financial literacy instruction to be part of the life management
skills course pursuant to s. 1003.43.

(d) Take other action as necessary to meet its statutory
mission as described in subsection (1).

(7) By June 30, 2007, and annually thereafter, the council
shall provide a detailed report to the Governor, the President
of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
on the council's performance of the responsibilities required by
subsection (6). The report shall include an assessment of the
effectiveness of Prosperity Campaigns and an evaluation of
obstacles to that effectiveness and shall make recommendations
for legislative action.

(8) The provisions of this section shall stand repealed on
July 1, 2010, unless saved from repeal through reenactment by
the Legislature.

Section 2. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section
1003.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.43 General requirements for high school graduation.--

(1) Graduation requires successful completion of either a
minimum of 24 academic credits in grades 9 through 12 or an

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107 International Baccalaureate curriculum. The 24 credits shall be
108 distributed as follows:

109 (i) One-half credit in life management skills to include
110 instruction in financial literacy focused on the importance of
111 financial management, savings, investments, credit scores, and
112 other relevant subjects; consumer education;; positive emotional
113 development;; marriage and relationship skill-based education;;
114 nutrition;; parenting skills;; prevention of human
115 immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency
116 syndrome and other sexually transmissible diseases;; benefits of
117 sexual abstinence and consequences of teenage pregnancy;;
118 information and instruction on breast cancer detection and
119 breast self-examination;; cardiopulmonary resuscitation;; drug
120 education;; and the hazards of smoking.

121
122 District school boards may award a maximum of one-half credit in
123 social studies and one-half elective credit for student
124 completion of nonpaid voluntary community or school service
125 work. Students choosing this option must complete a minimum of
126 75 hours of service in order to earn the one-half credit in
127 either category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for
128 service provided as a result of court action. District school
129 boards that approve the award of credit for student volunteer
130 service shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the
131 credit, and school principals are responsible for approving
132 specific volunteer activities. A course designated in the Course
133 Code Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 that is taken below
134 the 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school graduation

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award requirements as specified in a district school board's student progression plan. A student shall be granted credit toward meeting the requirements of this subsection for equivalent courses, as identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6), taken through dual enrollment.

Section 3. The sum of \$162,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund in fiscal year 2006-2007 to Workforce Florida, Inc., to fund the Florida Prosperity Campaign Council as created by this act.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1419

Scuba Diving Instructional Facilities

SPONSOR(S): Attkisson

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS:

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Community Colleges & Workforce Committee</u>	<u></u>	Thomas <i>MT</i>	Ashworth <i>Opa</i>
2) <u>Education Appropriations Committee</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
3) <u>Education Council</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
4) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
5) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 1419 provides that scuba diving instructional facilities may be exempt for licensure requirements by the Commission of Independent Education under s. 1005.06, F.S., if:

- They are approved or certified by a dive training organization whose standards have been evaluated and approved by the Commission of Independent Education.

The Commission of Independent Education must find that the dive training organization's standards are substantially equivalent to their licensure standards.

HB 1419 defines a dive training organization as an organization that publishes definitive courses of recreational diver instruction, courses for the training of recreational diver instructors, and instructor standards of conduct and training procedures.

HB 1419 provides and effective date of July 1, 2006.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

None

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Chapter 1005, F.S., provides for the licensure of nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions and establishes the Commission for Independent Education to function in matters concerning independent postsecondary educational institutions in consumer protection, program improvement, and licensure for institutions under its purview (s. 1005.21, F.S.)

The purpose of the chapter, pursuant to s.1005.01, F.S., includes encouraging privately supported higher education, aiding in protecting the health, education and welfare of persons who receive educational services from independent postsecondary educational institutions in this state, and aiding in protecting independent postsecondary educational institutions that currently operate or intend to begin operating in Florida. Both individuals and independent postsecondary educational institutions benefit from a state system that assures that all institutions satisfactorily meet minimum educational standards.

Section 1005.02(11), F.S., defines "independent postsecondary educational institution" as any postsecondary educational institution that operates in this state or makes application to operate in this state, and is not provided, operated, and supported by the State of Florida, its political subdivisions, or the Federal Government.

The definition of "school" in s. 1005.02(16), F.S., includes any nonpublic postsecondary noncollegiate educational institution, association, corporation, person partnership, or organization of any type which provides an complete postsecondary program of instruction through the students' attendance in the presence of an instructor; in a classroom or other practicum setting, or receives remuneration from the student.

Section 1005.06, F.S., references the institutions that are not required to obtain licensure and therefore are not under the jurisdiction or purview of the commission. That would include institutions that offer only avocational programs, contract training programs, religious colleges with a sworn affidavit, institutions regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration, another agency of the Federal Government or an agency of the state whose regulatory laws are similar in nature to those of the commission.

Scuba Diving Instructional Facility

Currently, scuba diving instructional facility request licensure through the Commission of Independent Education. Applicants are required to achieve 12 standards before the application is presented to the Commission of Independent Education Board for approval. The applications are reviewed by staff who responds to the applicant within 30 days from the date the application is received. The Commission of Independent Education holds board meetings every 2 months where applications are reviewed by the commissioners on the board. The Commission has currently 19 scuba diving instructional facilities licensed by them.

The Commission of Independent Education's sub-committee that examines dive schools has identified four reputable dive organizations listed below.¹ These dive organizations currently do not have to receive any type of licensure from the Commission of Independent Education.

National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI)
P.O. Box 89789
Tampa, FL 33689-0413
800-553-6284
www.naui.org

Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI)
30151 Tomas Street
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-2125
800-729-7234
www.padi.com

Scuba Schools International (SSI)
2619 Canton Court
Fort Collins, CO 80525
970-482-0883
www.ssiusa.com

Scuba Diving International (SDI)
18 Elm Street
Topsham, Maine 04086
888-778-9073
worldhq@tdisdi.com

Effect of Proposed Changes

HB 1419 provides that scuba diving instructional facilities may be exempt for licensure requirements by the Commission of Independent Education if they are approved or certified by a dive training organization whose standards have been evaluated and approved by the Commission of Independent Education.

The Commission of Independent Education must find that the dive training organization's standards are substantially equivalent to their licensure standards.

HB 1419 defines dive training organization as an organization that publishes definitive courses of recreational diver instruction, courses for the training of recreational diver instructors, and instructor standards of conduct and training procedures.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1005.05, F.S., providing that certain scuba diving instructional facilities are not under the jurisdiction or purview of the Commission for Independent Education.

Section 2. Provides and effective date of July 1, 2006

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

See fiscal comments.

2. Expenditures:

See fiscal comments.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The scuba diving facilities would no longer be required to pay cost associated with being licensed by the Commission. The average cost of the scuba diving instructional facility license is approximately \$3,000 dollars.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The scuba diving facilities would no longer be required to pay cost associated with being licensed by the Commission. The average cost of the license is approximately \$3,000 dollars.

Section 1005.35(1), F.S., states that the Commission shall annually establish a fee schedule to generate, from fees, the amount of revenue appropriated for its operation.

The bill requires that the Commission evaluate and approve the standards of the dive training organization to determine if the standards are substantially equivalent to the licensure of the Commission. The Commission would still have these tasks to perform; however no fees would be collected.

The Commission does not see a significant fiscal impact because there are only 19 dive schools out of the approximately 800 schools the Commission currently licenses.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None

2. Other:

None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

HB 1419

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to scuba diving instructional facilities;
3 amending s. 1005.06, F.S.; providing that certain scuba
4 diving instructional facilities are not under the
5 jurisdiction or purview of the Commission for Independent
6 Education and are not required to obtain licensure;
7 providing an effective date.
8

9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
10

11 Section 1. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (1) of
12 section 1005.06, Florida Statutes, to read:

13 1005.06 Institutions not under the jurisdiction or purview
14 of the commission.--

15 (1) Except as otherwise provided in law, the following
16 institutions are not under the jurisdiction or purview of the
17 commission and are not required to obtain licensure:

18 (h) A scuba diving instructional facility that is approved
19 or certified by a recognized dive training organization whose
20 standards have been evaluated and approved by the commission as
21 standards substantially equivalent to the licensure standards of
22 the commission. For purposes of this paragraph, a recognized
23 dive training organization is an organization that publishes
24 definitive courses of recreational diver instruction, courses
25 for the training of recreational diver instructors, and
26 instructor standards of conduct and training procedures.

27 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.